

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06048 260854Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 260748Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5037
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMMBASSY MOSCOW 3148
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6048

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH, JA, KS, PF, PG, TH, UR, VN
SUBJ: PRC ATTITUDES ON KOREA AND SOUTHEAT ASIA

SUMMARY: A LOCAL PRC REPRESENTATIVE TOLD CONGENOFF
MAY 25 THAT U.S. TROP WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH KOREA
SHOULD BE HANDLED CAUTIOUSLY. COMMENTING ON SOTHEAST
ASIAN INTERRELATIONSHIPS, SOURCE STATED THAT HE FELT
THE SOVIET UNION WAS BEHIND THE RECENT HARDENING OF THE
VIETNAMESE POSITION ON U.S. WAR REPARATIONS. HE
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ADDED: "IF THE VIETNAMESE ARE REALLY SOCIALIST THEN
THEY WOULD NOT DEMAND REPARATIONS." END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A MAY 25 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH
CONGENOOF, A HONG KONG BASED PRC JOURNALIST COMMENTED
ON CURRENT U.S. EFFORTS TO REDUCE GROUND FORCES IN
KOREA BY STATING THAT THE PRC "GENERALLY" OPPOSES

THE STATIONING OF TROOPS ON FOREIGN SOIL. HE ADDED THAT KOREA IS "A VERY DELICATE SITUATION" AND THAT ANY NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING THE OVERALL EAST ASIAN INTER-NATIONAL SITUATION. IDEALLY, U.S. TROOPS WITHDRAWALS SHOLD ACCOMPANY A MOVE TOWARD THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA. NO ONE, INCLUDING THE U.S. AND CHINA, WANTS ANOTHER WAS IN KOREA. AT THE SAME TIME, HE CONTINUED, JAPAN SHOULD BEEF UP ITS DEFENSE FORCES TO DEVELOP A CREDIBLE DEFENSE. JAPAN SHOULD RELY LESS ON THE UNITED STATES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SOURCE ADDED THAT THE PRC DID NOT FEEL THAT JAPAN WOULD REVERT TO MILITARISM MERELY BECAUSE IT TOOK ON MORE OF ITS OWN DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. TURNING TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, SOURCE SAID HE FELT THAT SOVIETS WERE BEHIND THE RECENT HARDENING OF THE VIETNAMESE POSITION ON U.S. REPARATIONS. HE BELIEVED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD ABANDONED ITS CLAIM EARLIER BUT RENEWED THE DEMAND AFTER GIAP HAD TRAVELED TO MOSCOW. HE SAID THAT GIAP MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE BEEN TOLD TO TAKE A TOUGHER POSITION TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. "IF THE VIETNAMESE ARE REALLY SOCIALIST, THEN THEY WOULD NOT DEMAND REPARATIONS".

3. CONGENOFF THEN INQUIRED ABOUT THE RECENT VIETNAMESE ANNOUNCEMENT ESTABLISHING A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. SOURCE RESPONDED THAT VIETNAM COULD
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DO WHAT IT WANTED BUT "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PARACEL AND SPRATLY ISLANDS BELONG TO CHINA". EVEN THOUGH HE AVOIDED A DIRECT DISCUSSION OF SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THE PRC WOULD SOON ESTABLISH A CONSULATE IN SAIGON. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS FORM THE PRC EMBASSY IN HANOI.

4. SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT VIETNAM-CAMBODIA RELATIONS WERE GENERALLY LIMITED TO RESTRAINED STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS. PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE "CHAUVINISTIC ATTITUDE" OF THE VIETNAMESE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID THE RECENT CAMBODIAN-THAI BORDER PROBLEMS WERE CERTAINLY NOT THE RESULT OF A DELIBERATE CAMBODIAN POLICY. UCH PROBLEMS ARE MORE THAN LIKELY THE RESULT OF "BAD OFFICIALS" ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. UNDERSCORING PRC ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CORDIAL CAMBODIAN-THAI REALATIONS, SOURCE STATE THAT THE PRC HAD FACILITATED THE 1976 IENG SARY VISIT TO BANGKOK.

THE CHINESE IN FACT PROVIDED THE PLANE, COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES AND BACKUP PERSONNEL. SOURCE SAID:
"WE WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
THAI CONSULATE IN HONG KONG OVER THE IENG SARY VISIT."
THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT PRC REPRESENTATIVES IN
HONG KONG NEGOTIATED THE TRIP FOR THE CAMBODIAN
LEADER.
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